



The Green Thumb

A Newsletter of Extension Horticultural Activities and Events
For York County Extension Volunteers

Vol. 4, Issue 12
December 1, 2003

Calendar of Events

Dec. 31-Jan. 1	New Year's Holiday Extension office closed
Jan. 10	Advanced Pruning Training clinic
Jan. 13, 9:30am	Programming Meeting, St. Luke's
Jan. 16-18	VA Flower & Garden Show, VA Beach Pavilion
Jan. 19-22	Mid-Atlantic Horticulture Short Course (see current article)
Jan. 24, 10-12n	Homeowners Fruit Day (Jan. 31 st is rain date)
Jan. 24	2 nd Annual Landowners Woods & Wildlife Conference (Manassas) – see article
Feb. 7, 10-12n	Pruning Clinic – True Value
Feb. 7	2 nd Annual Landowners Woods & Wildlife Conference (Charlottesville) – see article
Feb. 14, 10-12n	Pruning Clinic – Upper Bruton
Feb. 21, 10-12n	Pruning Clinic – Tabb area
Feb. 28, 10-12n	Pruning Clinic – Ken Matthews
Mar. 6, 8:15-3:00pm	Horticultural Extravaganza, St. Luke's Methodist Church

Thursdays Work/Learn Day in the Learning Garden 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

For additions/corrections to the Calendar of Events contact Jody at 890-4940. The deadline for the Green Thumb is ALWAYS the 15th of the month, no exception.

E-mail changes: If you have changes to any of the methods of communication to you please notify Jody. Jody will pass the word. We want to keep in contact with you. These changes will be posted to the weekly e-mails and will be in the Green Thumb.

Master Gardener Mission Statement

Our mission, as trained volunteers in partnership with the York County, Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent, is to provide horticultural educational opportunities to the public through research-based horticultural programs and activities to enhance our environment, lives and community.

www.ext.vt.edu

Extension is a joint program of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and state and local governments.

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless, of race, color, religion, sex, Age, veteran status, national origin, disability, or political affiliation. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

Notes from Jim

Educational Opportunities

Two great educational opportunities occur in January that you might want to put onto your calendar.

January 19, 20, & 21 / The Virginia Flower and Garden Show www.vafgs.org

January 16, 17, & 18 / Mid-Atlantic Horticultural Short Course www.phcv.org

These educational programs will expose you to a broad array of classes, professional contacts, and give you a feel for the direction of horticulture in the Tidewater Area. The Flower and Garden Show is held at the Virginia Beach Pavilion. The Mid Atlantic Horticultural Conference will be held at the Oceanfront Ramada Plaza Resort Conference Center. I trust that you will consider attendance to these events. For more information and a schedule of classes go to their websites for details. Wanda has more information in the body of this newsletter.

I encourage attendance at these trainings and this goes towards your continuing training if you are a master gardener. To further encourage attendance, I will pay \$60.00 per day of your registration fee. These funds are made available through the local budget provided to us by the York County Board of Supervisors. They value the continuing education of our volunteers. The other option that you have for full payment of your registration fee is to sign up to be a moderator during the week. You can contact Mike Andruzcyk:

MikeAatNBG@aol.com, or call at 757-441-5893.

In order to receive the \$60.00 per day scholarship to attend you must:

- 1) Attend a full day of the conference.
 - 2) Meet the deadline to turn your registration form into the Office by December 19. Include the balance at the time you submit your application. The application is available on line. www.phcv.org
 - 3) Write a brief review for submission to the Green Thumb.
 - 4) Send a Thank You note to your Board member indicating the value of this conference for your education.
- Please consider either of these trainings. I hope that one or both might fit into your calendar.

Program Flowchart

I have met with all of the 2003 graduates and I have inserted the trainees into coordinators roles. Jody is sorting the Active Master Gardener responses and will construct a roster. The 2004 Extension Horticultural Flow Chart will be out by mid to late December. We will mail this by itself. Along with the flow chart this year, we will include a separate sheet listing all of the Master Gardeners and the jobs that they signed up for. This will allow you to have this information ready in your hand. Thank you all for agreeing to perform the jobs in this program. It is an ambitious program and it runs well because of your cooperative and dedicated volunteer efforts. I look forward to working with all of you to serve the citizens of York County. Many have returned the volunteer form- Thanks!!! Those that have not returned the form, please get it to us soon.

Holiday Closing

The York County Extension Office will be closed during the following dates:

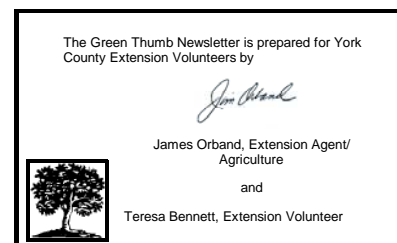
Thursday, December 25

Thursday, January 1

The Governor has not announced other holidays. We will keep you informed.

Jim will not be in the office December 22 through January 2.

The office will be nominally staffed during this time.



Holiday Meeting and Luncheon

Happy Holidays ! Mark your calendar and plan to be at our holiday luncheon on December 9th from 9:30 till 12:30. It takes place at St. Luke's in the Fellowship Hall, and is guaranteed to be the highlight of your day. Make a goodie to share, and if you promised any recipes last year, now's a good time to bring them.

Hurricane Isabel seriously depleted our local food closet supplies, and now with the holidays upon us, the need is even greater. So remember to bring in your donation of non-perishable food.

Hours

The holidays are upon us, the end of the year is upon us, and now is a GREAT time to turn in all of your hours for 2003!! Won't it feel wonderful to start 2004 with a clean slate?

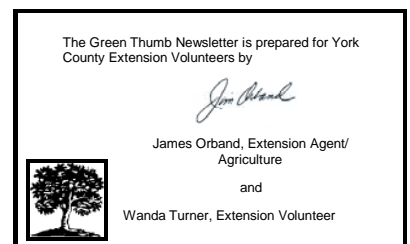
You can turn in your hours in the office (identified folder provided), email them to me (Hanson5t@cox.net), hand them to me in person, and as a last resort. . .call while I'm online and we'll get you all caught up. Three important details to remember: if you always **include your email** at the top of the sheet I will send you a report after I enter your hours; ALWAYS **keep a copy** of the hours you turn in for your records, and **keep a running total** of your hours so you can see if your total and my total match.

Questions???? Please contact Terry Hanson 872-9639

New Master Gardeners

Welcome to our new Master Gardener Interns, Class of 2003, and congratulations on completing the course. I think the general feeling after that is – “Now I know how much I really don't know”. But what fun we have learning! And hopefully we will pass it on to some unsuspecting York County resident that thinks we know everything. Again, congratulations.

- Margie Aaron
- Clare Balawajder
- Ellie Betts
- Marshall Booker
- Clare Britcher
- Janine Casey
- Cheri Cornn
- Judi Ernsting
- Sally Gates
- Kathi Hebert
- Karen Hokansson
- Brenda Kercsi
- Judy Lange
- Dottie Poniatowski
- Linda Schutter
- Dianne Taylor
- Debbie Wolfe



2nd Annual Landowners Woods & Wildlife Conference

This conference is for individuals, families, and interested persons to learn about their woods, wildlife and other natural resources. Participants will receive multiple links to information and a better understanding of the natural resources within their realm of influence. The goal is to help landowners make "best decisions" for themselves, their land and society.

A variety of topics will be presented including: Managing Wildlife on large & small acreages, Alternative Income Opportunities, Selling Timber, Forest Aesthetics, Financial tools for Land Conservation, and Forest Health. The first conference will be held in Manassas on January 24th, and another will be in Charlottesville on February 7th.

For more information about this conference contact Adam Downing with Virginia Cooperative Extension at 540-948-6881 or www.adowning@vt.edu

Mid-Atlantic Horticulture Short Course

What is the Mid-Atlantic Horticulture Short Course? It is four days of intensive horticultural information, educational credits, and extremely informative speakers. The specially designed courses focus on all aspects of the horticulture industry. It is sponsored by the Professional Horticulture Conference of Virginia, and has been produced by them since 1964. For more information on the classes offered, go to www.phcv.org.

This year's course will be held at the Ramada Plaza Resort Conference Center in Virginia Beach on January 19-22. There are special rates if you would like to stay at the hotel during the conference. Contact Jane Johnson at 757-428-7025 and mention the Mid-Atlantic Horticulture Short Course.

The program is also in need of a few good moderators. As A Moderator you would have FREE registration to the complete conference.

Requirements to be a moderator include:

- Professional appearance and manner
- Ability to volunteer for one-day of seminars
- Mandatory attendance at the orientation briefing held in December

If interested, contact Mike Andruzcyk:

E-mail: MikeAatNBG@aol.com, (mention Mid-Atlantic Horticulture conference Moderator in the subject line)

Or call at 757-441-5893.

Virginia Flower and Garden Show

The 2004 Virginia Flower & Garden Show will be held at the Virginia Beach Pavilion on January 16, 17 & 18, 2004. This year's show will celebrate the 10th anniversary with the theme; "The Garden Party".

At the show, you can pick up gardening tips, ideas for landscapes in your own gardens, and see the newly developed hybrids, trends and techniques. There will be educational classes along with continuous demonstrations. A European-style flower market offers fresh flowers along with 125 other vendors that offer outdoor furniture, birdhouses, lawn ornaments and other garden merchandise.

Admission for the show is \$10 for adults and \$8 for senior citizens. Children under the age of 12 are admitted free.

Show hours are: 9-8 Friday, 9-8 Saturday and 10-5 Sunday. For more information call 757-853-0057, or go to www.vafgs.org

Online Gardening Course

NC State is offering an online home gardening course. It might be of interest to you as a Master Gardener, or it could be taken for transfer credit since it is a 400 level course. It is a one-hour credit course that addresses the basics in botany and horticulture relating to home gardening. This is the first one credit course in a 3 part series. The class will be available for the Spring 2004 semester.

There are no textbooks and no need to go to the campus. There will be 5 assignments to be done at home and turned in at the end of the course.

At the end of the course you will be able to:

- 1) Explain how plants are classified and how they get their names
- 2) Explain plant anatomy + plant growth and apply it to home gardening
- 3) Propagate plants sexually and asexually
- 4) Prepare soil for planting, compost and use of fertilizers correctly

The course is HS 495 F: In THE GARDEN I. For more information, the campus phone is (919) 515-3189. Or you can go to <http://www.uncvtv.org/inthegarden/ttcourse.html>

Trees are Good

There is a very informative and educational web page online called www.treesaregood.com. The [International Society of Arboriculture](http://www.treesaregood.com) (ISA) created it to provide quality tree care information for the general public. This web page is an excellent source for obtaining information on related topics; answer your questions about tree care, or to help locate an ISA Certified Arborist near you. There are brochures on the site covering everything from tree selection, to insect and disease problems. The ISA is a non-profit organization supporting tree care research around the world. Take the time to check out this site, you'll be glad you did.

**Virginia Cooperative Extension
York County Office
100 County Drive
PO Box 532
Yorktown VA 23690-0532
(757) 890-4940 / Fax 890-4033
jorband@vt.edu**

We're on the Web!

www.yorkcounty.gov/vce

December 2003

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3 9:30-12n Office Resources Training 9:30 – Decorate for homes tour Grace Episcopal	4	5 Yorktown X-mas Tree lighting and Boat Parade	6 10am-6pm Christmas Homes Tour
7	8	9 9:30-12:30 Meeting & Holiday Luncheon	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 12n-1pm Hear Say radio show 89.5 FM	20
21	22	23	24	25 Christmas Day Extension Office closed	26	27
28	29	30	31	1 New Years Extension Office closed		